

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05909 270914Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00  
/031 W

-----087764 280530Z /23

R 270630Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, PINT, AS

SUBJ: APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY EFFECTIVE IN  
JANUARY 1979

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC POLICY JOHN O. STONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO SUCCEED SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY, SIR FREDERICK WHEELER, C.B.E., WHEN HE RETIRES IN JANUARY.
2. JOHN STONE, AGED 49 IS A CAREER PUBLIC SERVANT WITH AN EXCELLENT REPRESENTATION AS A KEEN FINANCIAL ECONOMIST. HE HAS BEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SINCE 1971, HAVING JOINED THE TREASURY IN 1954 SHORTLY AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM OXFORD (NEW COLLEGE). A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FROM PERTH, STONE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (GEORGES COLLEGE) WITH HONORS.
3. STONE WAS THE AUSTRALIAN TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON 1958-61 AND AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND IN WASHINGTON FROM 1967 TO 1970.
4. THE TREASURER, MR. HOWARD, SAID THAT STONE WILL BRING A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY TO THE POSITION. THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE. STONE WILL CERTAINLY BRING YOUTH AND THE SPARKY WESTERN AUSTRALIAN APPROACH INTO THE TREASURY WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DOMINATED BY THE CONSERVATIVE WHEELER FROM THE STATE OF VICTORIA. STONE

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MADE QUITE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE OECD AND IS WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE WAS CONSIDERED BY EMBASSY CONTACTS TO BE A BRILLIANT ANALYST OF MAJOR ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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